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Amendment and/or Response
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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A video classification system comprising:

 a story segment identifier for processing a video stream and partitioning the video stream into a plurality of story segments, said story segment identifier producing one or more key frames associated with each story segment of the plurality of story segments; and

 a classifier, operably coupled to the story segment identifier, for associating one or more classifications to each story segment of the plurality of story segments, to facilitate a selection among the plurality of story segments based on the one or more classifications.

2. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherin:

 the video stream includes an associated text stream;

 the story segment identifier partitions the text stream into an at least one text segment corresponding to at least one story segment of the plurality of story segments; and

 the classifier associates the one or more classifications to the at least one story segment based on the at least one text segment.

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3. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the video stream includes an associated audio stream;
the story segment identifier partitions the audio stream into at least one audio segment corresponding to at least one story segment of the plurality of story segments;
and
the classifier associates the one or more classifications to the at least one story segment based on the at least one audio segment.

4. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 3, wherein:

the classifier includes a converter for converting the at least one audio segment into at least one text segment, the classifier associating the one or more classifications to the at least one story segment based on the at least one text segment.

5. (Currently amended) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the video classification system further includes:

a visual characterizer, operably coupled to the story segment identifier and the classifier, for providing a visual characterization of at least one story segment of the plurality of story segments based on an image content of the at least one ~~each~~ story segment; and wherein

the classifier associates the one or more classifications to the at least one story segment based on the visual characterization.

6. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the visual characterizer includes:

a figure recognizer for recognizing a recognized figure from a plurality of recognizable figures based on the image content; and wherein

the visual characterizer characterizes the at least one story segment based on the recognized figure.

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7. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the visual characterizer includes at least one of: a text recognizer, a figure recognizer, and a flesh tone recognizer.

8. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the story segment identifier partitions the video stream based on at least one of a recognized figure, a recognized scene, a video cut, and a detected commercial.

9. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more classifications include at least one of: program type, news type, media, person, locale, popularity, and keyword.

10. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein each story segment of the plurality of story segments include one or more scenes, and the one or more key frames correspond to a frame within each of the one or more scenes.

11. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more key frames are determined based upon a transform of an encoding of the story segment of the plurality of story segments.

12. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the transform includes a discrete cosine transform, and the encoding is an MPEG encoding.

13. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the video stream is communicated from at least one of: an analog signal broadcast, a digital signal broadcast, a satellite broadcast, a cable broadcast, an Internet connection, a recorder device, and a playback device.

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14. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said video classification system further includes:

 a storage device for storing the plurality of story segments.

15. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the storage device is at least one of: a VCR, a DVD, a DVR, a CD-R/W, and a computer memory.

16. (Previously presented) The video classification system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more key frames is a video clip.

17-40. (Cancelled)